



1600 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 654-3551

April 17, 2007

To: The Mental Health Community

Subject: Advisory Committee to the California Department of Mental Health for Developing the California Strategic Plan for Suicide Prevention

The California Department of Mental Health (DMH) is now seeking volunteers to participate in a Suicide Prevention Plan Advisory Committee, which will provide advisory recommendations to the Department as it prepares the California Strategic Plan for Suicide Prevention. We ask that you consider applying for membership on this Committee or pass along this letter and application to others that might have the qualifications, as described below, and a desire to participate in this effort. Enclosed is the application to express interest in serving on this Committee.

Governor Schwarzenegger has requested the Department to develop this Plan by May 1, 2008. This directive evolved out of Senate Bill (SB) 1356 (Lowenthal) in 2006, which provided for the adoption of a statewide strategic plan on suicide prevention. While the Governor did not sign this bill, he expressed his clear support for the goals of SB 1356 and directed the Department of Mental Health to work with state and local agencies as well as constituency groups to develop the Plan.

The Committee will be comprised of state agencies, representatives from the Suicide Prevention Advocacy Network (SPAN), consumers of mental health services, family members of consumers, county mental health and health department representatives, local law enforcement, mental health and health providers, researchers, advocates and others with expertise and/or experience in suicide prevention.

The Advisory Committee will have five day-long meetings in Sacramento on the following dates:

June 14, 2007  
July 12, 2007  
August 9, 2007  
November 8, 2007  
November 29, 2007

Additionally, the Department will sponsor a public workshop in both Northern and Southern California in September and October 2007 so that the Committee can incorporate suggestions from the public into its work.

DMH will consider the following when selecting members for this Committee:

- Achieving a diversity of representation and perspective within the Committee, especially with regard to underserved, ethnic, and cultural communities.
- Direct experience or expertise in suicide prevention and suicide crisis response as well as the range of that experience/expertise.
- Ability to attend Committee meetings.

Please note that DMH must receive completed applications by **May 3, 2007**. (Refer to enclosed application for more detailed information.) Persons selected to serve on this Committee will be notified by May 24, 2007.

Questions and applications should be directed to:

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Prevention and Early Intervention Branch  
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Sacramento, California 95814  
E-mail: [bertha.macdonald@dmh.ca.gov](mailto:bertha.macdonald@dmh.ca.gov)  
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Thank you for your interest and dedication to mental health and health issues. With an average of over nine California residents per day dying by suicide, the successful development and implementation of California's Strategic Plan for Suicide Prevention will save the lives of teens, adults and seniors. We look forward to receiving applications from a wide range of Californians interested in suicide prevention.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

CAROL HOOD  
Deputy Director  
Systems of Care